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1,2,3 Concurrence
4 or comment
G-2, WDGS
Col Johnston/73022
Establishment of Psychological Warfare
Division, Special Staff
MID 912
22 May 1946

SUMMARY

1. The attached memorandum for the Chief of Staff, subject as above, sets forth the desirability of establishing a Psychological Warfare Division as a component of the WDSS.
2. The memorandum emphasizes the following points:
 - a. War Department responsibility for psychological warfare has been the function of Propaganda Branch, G-2, WDGS, since its establishment in November, 1943.
 - b. Prior to that date there existed a number of military and quasi-military organizations conducting psychological warfare planning and operations, with divided authority and consequent reduced efficiency.
 - c. Psychological warfare is not a new weapon, yet no firm determination of its role in the military establishment had been made at the outbreak of World War II, and civilian agencies were therefore called upon to perform a military function.
 - d. Since psychological warfare is certain to play an increased role in any future conflict, its place within the War Department should be established.
 - e. While relying on intelligence during wartime, psychological warfare is primarily operational in nature and does not fall readily within the scope of the Intelligence Division. However, the diverse nature of its activities is such that it does not appear to be a logical responsibility of OPD.
 - f. Field experience in World War II proved that psychological warfare is best conducted by a division or branch of Special Staff status. Such a division would insure complete exploitation of the potentials of psychological warfare and would provide for the study of existing methods and the development of improved techniques leading towards the most effective utilization of the weapon.
 - g. The establishment of a psychological warfare division on a Special Staff level would obviate the necessity of forcing commanders in the field to have civilian agencies thrust upon them for the conduct of military psychological warfare within their theaters. It would provide a central organization within the War Department for the planning and conduct of all phases of psychological warfare.

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Approved For Release 2002/07/03 : CIA-RDP84-00022R000400100056-9

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3. Recommended that Psychological Warfare Division, WDSS, be established with functions and responsibilities as set forth in Appendix A.

COORDINATION

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1 Enclosure

Memorandum for the Chief of Staff,
2/attachments.